

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

2007 INTERPRETIVE SERVICES REPORT

MONTANA STATE PARKS REGION 4



REAL MONTANA. REAL CLOSE.

4600 Giant Springs Rd.
Great Falls, MT 59405

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Giant Springs State Park

Visitation

State Park	2007 summer visitation*	Total Annual Visitation
Giant Springs	98,320	290,594

*Summer visitation includes the months of June, July and August



Mark Twain visits Giant Springs



Annual Lewis & Clark Festival Encampment



Field Trip is ready for Fish Hatchery Tour

Giant Springs State Park

Evening Presenter Series: “Personalities in the Park”

These five significant historic individuals were all part of Giant Springs State Park history.

Date	Program	Attendance	Comments
6/14	York's True Freedom	12	FWP presenter
6/28	Janey on the Lewis & Clark Expedition	4	FWP presenter
7/12	Paris Gibson: Founder of the Electric City	11	FWP presenter
7/26	Mark Twain Portrayal	21	Michael Delaney portrayed Twain
8/9	Anton Eilers: Birth of Great Falls Industry	8	FWP presenter
Total		56	



Mark Twain visiting Giant Springs July 31, 1895



Michael Delaney as Mark Twain July 26, 2007

Giant Springs State Park

Great Falls of the Missouri River Interpretive Hour

A ranger talks about the geology and history surrounding the waterfalls.

Date	Attendance	Comments
6/1	12	
6/8	15	
6/15	24	
6/22	13	
6/29	13	
7/6	7	
7/13	10	
7/20	12	
7/27	10	
8/3	7	
8/10	11	
8/17	14	
8/24	20	
8/31	14	
Total	182	Increase of 20 participants from last summer



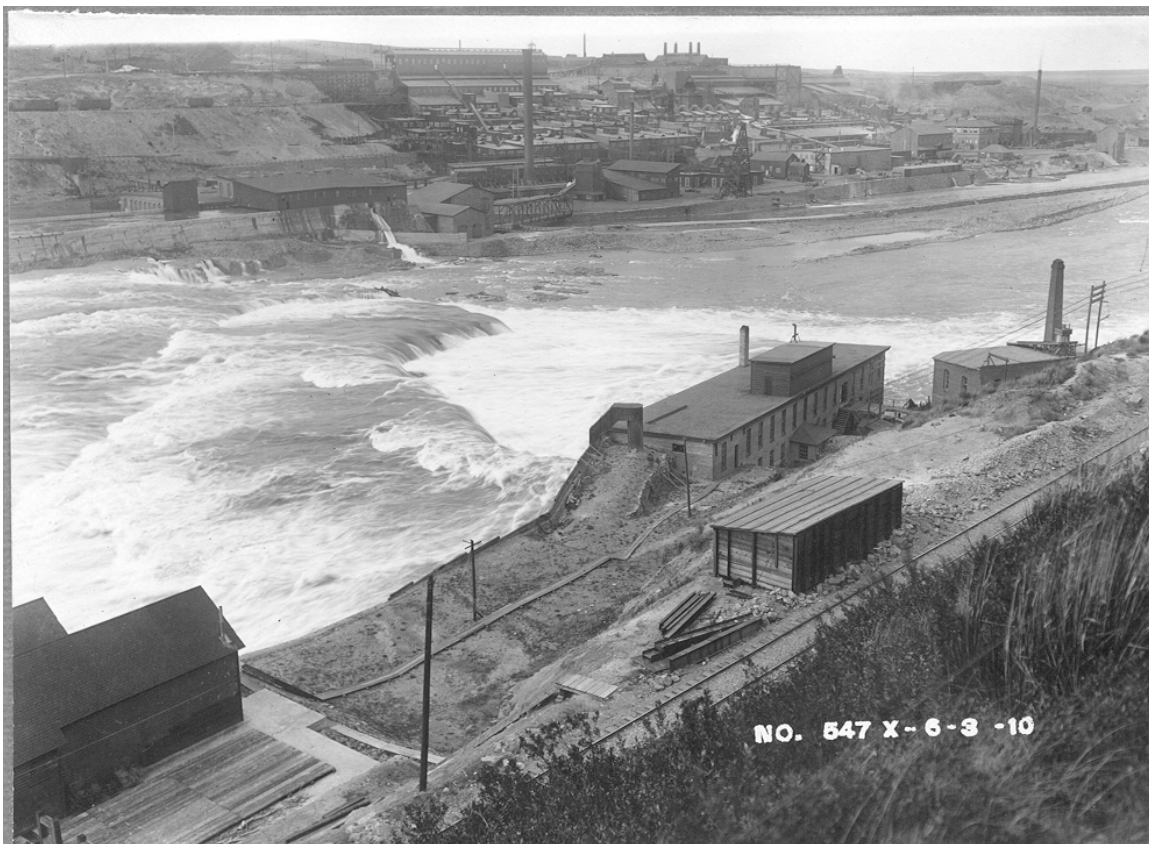
The Great Falls has a rich history of explorer and Native American history

Giant Springs State Park

Black Eagle Falls Interpretive Hour

A ranger talks about the geology and history surrounding the waterfalls.

Date	Attendance	Comments
6/2	14	
6/9	14	
6/16	9	
6/23	9	
6/30	8	
7/7	12	
7/14	5	
7/21	3	
7/28	9	
8/4	9	
8/11	9	
8/18	2	
8/25	9	
9/1	9	
Total	121	Slight increase from 2006 inaugural season



Black Eagle Falls shown with some of it's history surrounding the feature

Giant Springs State Park

Rainbow Falls Interpretive Hour

A ranger talks about the geology and history surrounding the waterfalls.

Date	Attendance	Comments
5/31	24	
6/7	19	
6/14	7	
6/21	14	
6/28	15	
7/5	21	
7/12	15	
7/19	16	
7/26	16	
8/2	16	
8/9	10	
8/16	4	
8/23	6	
8/30	6	
Total	189	Increase of over 20 tourists from last season



A train crosses over Rainbow Falls using the Montana Central Railway Bridge

Giant Springs State Park

Roving Ranger Day

This new program focused on both children and adults. Activity worksheets were created for each park. Giant Springs State Park already had a worksheet that was created in 2003. The worksheet was updated as adults helped their children answer park questions then earned a junior ranger badge. Hides and other props were set up for children and adults to see and touch during the day from 9 to 4 pm.

Date	Attendance	Comments
6/23	6	Slow day not many children
8/11	N/A	Community Artists Day conflicted with it
Total	6	This new program did not go over well in Giant Springs State Park

Guided Hikes

A ranger talks about the flora, fauna and history along the trail.

Date	Attendance	Comments
6/2	15	National Trails Day, Forest Service guided the hike on Sulphur Spring Trail
6/16	5	State Park Hiking Series (Sulphur Spring)
Total	20	



Ranger Pam Haugen answers questions during the National Trails Day event

Giant Springs State Park

Sunday Children's Program

Most attended program keeps improving as ranger plans a variety of activities.

Date	Program	Attendance	Comments
6/3	"Who's Prepared" (Leave No Trace)	0	LNT program
6/10	Dissecting Owl Pellets	0	Was not in paper
6/17	Scat & Tracks	6	
6/24	Wildlife Masks	30	Always big hit
7/1	Bald Eagle	29	
7/8	Pond Life	21	
7/15	Dissecting Fish	5	
7/22	Camp Oh No (Leave No Trace)	5	LNT program
7/29	Griz vs. Black Bear	14	
8/5	Snakes in a Park	102	Live wildlife!
8/12	Park Ranger for a Day	14	
8/19	Canceled tipi, presented owls again	27	
8/26	Go Neutral (Leave No Trace)	7	LNT program
Total		260	Increase of 52



Chris Dantic shows some of the participant's pond life

Giant Springs State Park

Outreach & Special Events

Many agencies, local clubs and other groups contact Region 4 parks for programs.

Date	Group & Program	Attendance	Comments
1/11	Lewis & Clark Center vols and general public, Montana & Anaconda Smelters	32	
2/5	Cambridge Court Retirement Home, Region 4 Power Point	5	
4/9	Cambridge Court, Montana's Fish & Medicine Rocks State Park	7	
6/2	MCC, PPLM and public, trail repair	35	National Trails Day
6/10	Medicine River Canoe Club, cleanup of the river bank along Giant Springs State Park	7	National River Cleanup Week
6/20	Forest Service, Disease Program	12	Safety Meeting, West Nile & others
7/7	Lewis & Clark Festival Encampment & tribal encampment	1,100	
7/12	Public Library summer series for children, Histories Mysteries	45	
7/23 – 7/27	Giant Springs Annual Summer Day Camp, Fun Filled Fishing Camp	20	kids learned about fish & how to fish
8/4	Dupuyer, MT Grizzly Day	86	
8/11	4 th Annual Community Artists Day	732	Attendance down
11/19	Gates of the Mts. Chapter, Janey on the Lewis & Clark Expedition	25	



Children check out the albino rainbow trout

Tour Groups

A total of 9 tour groups applied for tour permits with no groups asking for interpretive assistance. The nine groups totaled 247 people who toured Giant Springs State Park.

Giant Springs State Park

School Programs

Programming is staying consistent with many of the same schools returning.

Date	Programs Offered	Attendance	Comments
1/3 through 6/5	Giant Springs/ Roe River Tour Fish Hatchery Tour Leave No Trace Activities Project Wild Activities Lewis & Clark Program Bird Watching Nature Walk Visitor Center Tour Special Programs by Request	1,564 students 261 teachers / group leaders	Less students but more teachers and chaperons than previous summer
6/6 through 8/23	Giant Springs/ Roe River Tour Fish Hatchery Tour Leave No Trace Activities Project Wild Activities Lewis & Clark Program Bird Watching Nature Walk Visitor Center Tour Special Programs by Request	563 students / camp / recreation center kids 159 leaders / councilors	Less participants again but trend stays the same with more leaders and councilors than last summer
Total		2,547	



Chris Dantic presents program in Giant Springs State Park

First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park

Visitation

State Park	2007 summer visitation*	Total Annual Visitation
First Peoples Buffalo Jump	9,545	19,651

*Summer visitation includes the months of June, July, August and September



Montana musician, Jack Gladstone, performs at the Buffalo Jump



Reflection time on top of the Buffalo Jump

First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park

Evening Presenter Series: “Personalities in the Park”

These five significant historic individuals and tribes were all part of First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park.

Date	Program	Attendance	Comments
6/21	William Ulm	9	FWP presenter
7/5	The Little Shell Tribe	15	Presented by James Parker-Shields
7/19	Maynard Shumate	9	FWP presenter
8/2	Blackfeet Tribe	0	FWP presenter
8/16	Chief Plenty-Coups	7	Presented by manager Susan Stewart from Chief Plenty-Coup State Park
Total		40	



Robert Thomson presents a program at First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park

First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park

Jump Talks

Ranger presents program on the history of the Buffalo Jump on Saturdays & Sundays.

Date	Attendance	Comments
Total	153	28 presentations



Don Fish presents a Jump Talk to tourists in the Visitor Center

First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park

Roving Ranger Day

This new program focused on both children and adults. Adults helped their children answer park questions on their activity sheet so children can earn a junior ranger badge. Hides and other props were set up for children and adults to see and touch during the day from 9 to 4 pm.

Date	Attendance	Comments
Total	45	3 Programs

Guided Hikes

A ranger talks about the flora, fauna and history along the trail.

Date	Attendance	Comments
5/5	14	State Park Hiking Series
6/2	10	National Trails Day
Total	24	



Don Fish talks about the history of the Buffalo Jump before the May hike begins

First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park

Outreach & Special Events

New special events were added in 2007 including a concert, sleep over & dinner.

Date	Group & Program	Attendance	Comments
April 2007	Area students attended annual educational workstations for Annual Archaeo Days	285	
5/22	CMR High School students helped with the trail marker installation	150	
6/30 – 7/1	For ages 9 – 12 1 st Annual Night at the Pishkun Children hiked, ate dinner, watched movies, and the spent night at park	17	
7/21 – 7/22	19 th Annual Mammoth Hunt (atlatl competition)	137	15 contestants
7/28	General Public Evening at the Pishkun included a presentation on traditional foods and a buffalo steak dinner	47	
9/15	Jack Gladstone Concert	51	
September 2007	General public enjoyed the First Nations Education Series	84	7 programs
September 2007	Students attended Annual Culture Days	272	7 groups
9/14 – 9/16	Cultural Encampment & Atlatl Event	135	7 contestants



Participants take the challenge of using an atlatl

Tour Groups

A total of 31 tour groups applied for tour permits. The 31 groups totaled 768 people that toured First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park.

First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park

School Programs

Students can take advantage of many opportunities including Archaeo Days in April.

Date	Programs Offered	Attendance	Comments
3/1 – 10/31	Annual school groups, Archaeo Days, off-site programs and Cultural Days	2,150	



Students enjoy the Annual Archaeology Days

Sluice Boxes State Park

Visitation

State Park	2007 summer visitation*	Total Annual Visitation
Sluice Boxes	7,307	12,179

*Summer visitation includes the months of June, July and August

Programs

This new program focused on both children and adults. Adults helped their children answer park questions on their activity sheet so children can earn a junior ranger badge. Hides and other props were set up for children and adults to see and touch during the day from 9 to 4 pm. Hike was well attended.

Date	Programs Offered	Attendance	Comments
6/9	Roving Ranger Day	42	Very well attended
6/30	Roving Ranger Day	77	
7/28	Roving Ranger Day	78	
8/25	Roving Ranger Day	36	½ day as hiked in the morning
8/25	State Park Hiking Series	9	
Total		242	



Hikers take a stroll through Sluice Boxes State Park

Tower Rock State Park

Visitation

State Park	2007 summer visitation*	Total Annual Visitation
Tower Rock	4,148	8,376

*Summer visitation includes the months of June, July and August

Programs

This new program focused on both children and adults. Adults helped their children answer park questions on their activity sheet so children can earn a junior ranger badge. Hides and other props were set up for children and adults to see and touch during the day from 9 to 4 pm. Hikes were well attended.

Date	Programs Offered	Attendance	Comments
6/2	National Trails Day	7	
6/2	Roving Ranger Day	18	½ day as hiked in the morning
7/14	State Park Hiking Series	12	
7/14	Roving Ranger Day	6	
8/4	Roving Ranger Day	2	
Total		45	



Ranger and hikers take a break at the top of Tower Rock

Ackley Lake State Park

Visitation

State Park	2007 summer visitation*	Total Annual Visitation
Ackley Lake	10,327	20,286

*Summer visitation includes the months of June, July and August

Programs

As part of Earth Day week, Stanford Public Schools wanted to pick up trash in Ackley Lake State Park. Students, teachers and parents spent half a day picking up litter and then treated themselves to a sack lunch.

Date	Programs Offered	Attendance	Comments
4/26	Ackley Lake SP Stanford, MT students, cleanup state park	35	Earth Day week
Total		35	



Stanford students take time to volunteer and clean around Ackely Lake

Smith River State Park

Visitation

State Park	2007 summer visitation*	Total Annual Visitation
Smith River	4,291	4,291

*Summer visitation includes the months of April - October

Programs

These off-site programs at a local assisted living home went over well.

Date	Programs Offered	Attendance	Comments
2/15	Cambridge Place Retirement, Region 4 Power Point	17	Off-site
2/19	Cambridge Place, Animal Tracks,	7	Off-site
3/5	Cambridge Court, Smith River Power Point	12	Off-site
3/15	Cambridge Place, Smith River Power Point	8	Off-site
3/19	Cambridge Court, Bear Program	8	Off-site
4/12	Cambridge Place, Bear Program	14	Off-site
Total		66	



Chris Dantic presents an off-site program on the Smith River

Materials, Facilities & Training

Date	Project or Training	Comments
5/07	First Peoples Buffalo Jump rock markers	The markers were distributed along the trail
5/07	Tower Rock interpretive panels were installed	Temporary signs were taken out and permanent one were installed
5/07	New Region 4 Hiking Guide was published	Includes area for individual park stamp
5/07	Attended annual Region 4 Parks training	
8/07	Leave No Trace Master Educator Training	Completed by Matt Marcinek & Chris Dantic
9/07	Sluice Boxes State Park received their new kiosk	
10/07	First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park completed their new trail guide	
12/07	Attended Bi-Annual MT State Parks meeting	



Roger Semler demonstrates a Leave No Trace mound fire



New Kiosk installed at Sluice Boxes



New interpretive signs at Tower Rock

Submitted by: *Christopher Dantic*

**Region 4 State Parks
Interpretive Specialist**

**Contributors: Chris Dantic, Robert Thomson, Roger Semler, Colin Maas,
Matt Marcinek, Richard Hopkins**

Approved by: *Roger L. Semler*

Regional Parks Manager

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